

State Board Retreat

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its Spring retreat Friday, April 15, 2015 in the Barratt Room, Outlook at Duncan Center, Dover, Delaware. The retreat session began at 8:52 a.m. The following Board members were in attendance: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Barbara Rutt, Nina Lou Bunting, Gregory Coverdale, and Dr. Terry Whittaker. Donna R. Johnson, State Board Executive Director, and Deputy Attorney General Valerie Dunkle were also present.

Others in attendance included Karen Field Rogers, Susan Haberstroh, Angeline Rivello, Shanna Ricketts, Shannon Holston, Michael Watson, Matthew Korobkin, David Blowman and Jen Nagourney.

Dr. Gray provided a brief overview of the topics on the Board's retreat agenda.

ESSA

Deputy Secretary of Education Karen Field Rogers highlighted the Department's activities on the review of ESSA. Various groups are reviewing different aspects of ESSA and the differences from NCLB. The Department is viewing ESSA as a tool for the Department's vision and priorities. Dr. Haberstroh noted the requirements for 2016-2017. Ms. Johnson stated that the State Board would be hosting a workshop on ESSA for local board members and educational stakeholders to provide information as they determine policy levers for their schools and districts.

The Board recessed for fifteen minutes

Organizational and Financial Framework Update

Jen Nagourney and David Blowman highlighted the changes to the framework that would provide more clarity.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and returned to session at 1:00 p.m.

Ed Prep and Licensure Update

Shanna Ricketts and Shannon Holston provided an update on the Ed Prep Program Reports that focuses on recruitment, candidate performance, placement, retention, and perceptions. There was discussion on the tier structure for ed prep programs and accreditation. There was also discussion on the timing of when teachers are hired.

Task Force Update

Ms. Johnson noted that the Board was represented on many Task Forces. Mr. Coverdale and Mr. Melendez provided a brief update of the first meeting of the Financial Literacy Task Force.

The Board recessed from 2:26 p.m. to 2:36 p.m.

Smarter Assessments and Updates

Chief Academic Officer Michael Watson provided an update on the assessment inventory to reduce duplicate testing. He also highlighted the updates to the Online Report System and how educators can access deeper level student score information using the tool and also through Performance Plus to assist with instructional decision-making. There was also discussion on the SAT resources and test administration.

Statewide Strategic Plan for Special Education

Mr. Watson was joined by Matthew Korobkin and provided the Board with an update on the Special Education Statewide Strategic Plan. The Department of Education was authorized to perform a comprehensive, annual review of special education services within the state's public school. Mr. Korobkin found that Delaware is one of four states that does not have a legislated education collaborative and he noted the many benefits of such a collaborative including promoting equity by providing students and school access to programs and services, promoting efficiency in the delivery of special education programs and services and promoting cooperating and coordination among school districts, state agencies and human service providers. There was discussion on current legislation concerning autism.

The Board recessed from 4:17 p.m. to 4:27 p.m.

Policy Agenda/Next Steps

The Board discussed policy issues as well as transition after a new Governor is elected.

The Retreat adjourned at 6:04 p.m.